



the **RARA RAG**

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ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 56

MARCH 2004

NO. 7

SKYWARN Spotter Training

Brad Armstrong W1YX

Well, the February general meeting program was very well received. I have had many folks tell me that they got a lot out of David Shields' visit. He gave us all the answers to those burning technical questions to do with power line quality. Those present even got to see demonstrations of the latest technology that David's team at RG&E uses to track down these issues. I will re-iterate that David has expressed a strong interest in building a better working relationship between hams in our community and RG&E. This is a great opportunity for us to join him in this effort. If you have any power line quality issues to report or inquire about, please contact me at the e-mail address on the RaRa homepage, and I'll relay your information report to him, or get David's contact information to you, whichever you prefer.

The presentation for our March general membership meeting will be by Judith Levan, N2TEZ, of the



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RaRa

MEETING

MARCH 5, 2004

8:00 PM

**HENRIETTA FIRE HALL
3129 E. HENRIETTA RD.**

SKYWARN

Spotter Training

Presented by

Judith Levan N2TEZ

National Weather Service

FCC Okays BPL Proposal; ARRL Officials Express Disappointment

NEWINGTON, CT, Feb 12, 2004--The FCC today agreed unanimously--with one partial dissent--to go forward with a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) on the subject of Broadband over Power Line (BPL). The NPRM is the next step in the BPL proceeding, which began last April with a Notice of Inquiry that attracted more than 5100 comments--many from the amateur community. The FCC did not propose any changes in Part 15 rules governing emissions from unlicensed devices, but said it would require BPL providers to apply "adaptive" interference mitigation techniques to their systems. An ARRL delegation attended the FCC open meeting in Washington, and League President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, expressed disappointment with the FCC's decision.

"I had hoped the FCC would have shown a greater depth of understanding of the issue," he said. Haynie also said he was dumfounded that FCC staff and some commissioners continued to tout BPL as a broadband and Internet solution for rural dwellers when "the economic reality of that possibility speaks for itself." Haynie said the FCC seemed to be echoing BPL industry publicity.

The FCC has not yet released the details of the NPRM, and a presentation by the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) revealed only its broad outlines. But ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said the Commission's own presentation and the individual FCC members' comments demonstrated to him that the NPRM should have cut the permissible emission limits under Part 15.

"The Commission clearly recognized that the

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the RARA RAG

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THE PRES SEZ...

George Platteter AA2FO

It's that time again. Seems like just yesterday and I was writing last month's article. Anyway, time has passed and we had an opportunity to do our thing with respects to Amateur Radio. Anybody for snow patrol, on 10-160 meters. or any other band. Snow shoes a must. Or maybe you are just tired of all the snow and are thinking of what you might do for Field Day, the Hamfest, or one of those other events conducive to milder climatic conditions.

Speaking of the Hamfest, I did speak briefly with some of the organizers involved in what could become a RaRa booth. Can't give out any details as yet, as these individuals mentioned something about "classified." Hmm! While on the subject of Hamfest, I did speak briefly with Harold Smith who informed me the Hamfest will again be offering the "Bring and Buy" program. This is a program where you bring a piece of equipment you want to sell, put a price on it, leave it on display, and come back at the end of the day to pick up the cash. That is if it sells. Of course the club gets a cut, but that is understandable. The program was highly successful last year.

Haven't heard anything from Jon Arney in regards to the RIT Club bringing their radio controlled blimp with ATV (Amateur Television) again this year. Maybe they could bring it with a new twist-Automatic Pilot. With that innovation they might let yours truly flying it again. If you recall last year, I landed it on the ceiling. (Those mooring masts get higher and higher) Took twenty minutes and a long pole to get it airborne again. The students used much lower mooring masts.

The highlight of the up and coming general meeting on March 5th will be a program presented by Judy Levan, N2TEZ, of the National Weather Service, and chronicled elsewhere on these pages. Would like to mention it here also, because it is a very interesting and informative program. See you at the meeting.

SILENT KEY:

Judith A. Haingray N2XIM 01/29/2004

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existing Part 15 emission limits are inadequate to stop interference," Sumner said, "but it's placing the burden of interference mitigation on the licensed user that's supposed to be protected." Sumner said that if the FCC really believed current Part 15 emission limits were sufficient, it would not have had to require that BPL providers institute interference mitigation procedures and systems. Sumner said the League cannot take a formal position until it reviews the full NPRM.

Anh Wride of the OET staff outlined the scope of the NPRM, which only addresses so-called "access BPL"--the type that would apply radio frequency energy to exterior overhead and underground low and medium-voltage power lines to distribute broadband and Internet service.

"We also recognize the concerns of licensed radio service users regarding the potential for interference due to operations of BPL systems, and that these licensed operations must be protected," Wride said. "The staff believes, however, that these interference concerns can be adequately addressed." She said the proposal would require that BPL systems "be able to modify their operation to mitigate any interference that might occur." The NPRM also would impose identification requirements on BPL providers to aid in interference mitigation.

Wride said the FCC's BPL NPRM: Applies existing Part 15 emission limits for unlicensed carrier-current systems to BPL systems. Part 15 rules now require BPL systems to eliminate any harmful interference that may occur and to "cease operation if they cannot," Wride said. Requires BPL systems to employ "adaptive interference-mitigation techniques, including the capabilities to shut down a specific device, to reduce power levels on a dynamic or remote-control basis and to include or exclude specific operating frequencies or bands," Wride said. This would alleviate site-specific interference concerns, she added.

Subjects BPL providers to notification requirements similar to those now required for power-line carrier systems. This would establish a public database to include such information as the location of BPL devices, modulation type and operating frequencies. Proposes guidelines to measure the RF emissions of BPL and other carrier-current systems. "These guidelines would ensure that measure-

ments of the emissions from such systems are made in a consistent manner with repeatable results for determining compliance with the rules," Wride said. This also would aid in evaluating interference sources and applying "appropriate interference mitigation measures," she added. FCC Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy, already on record as an avid BPL supporter, said the Commission was "proceeding cautiously in order to minimize the potential for harmful interference." Abernathy asked OET Chief Edmond Thomas to describe a likely interference scenario and "how it might play out" in terms of the NPRM's interference mitigation provisions.

Thomas said that because BPL systems would have to be registered, it would be easy to determine if one were in operation in the complainant's vicinity. "If the answer is yes, they report the interference to the provider," Thomas continued. "The provider has the capability to adjust his power and the frequency of operation to mitigate the interference."

Thomas said that in most such circumstances, the BPL provider--as a Part 15 user--would "notch out the frequencies that are offending."

Commissioner Kevin Martin called BPL "an exciting technology," and added, "I appreciate the sensitivity that we're trying to exhibit to the concerns about potential interference, particularly for the government operations that have been raised by FEMA."

Commissioner Michael Copps said the FCC still faces some difficult questions, including how to handle cross-subsidization between regulated power businesses and unregulated communications businesses. "Is it right to allow electricity ratepayers to pay higher bills each month to subsidize an electric company's foray into broadband?" he asked his colleagues. Copps dissented in part on his approval of the NPRM.

Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein said he's been impressed by the potential of BPL technology and thinks the rules changes the FCC is proposing will "promote future deployment of this kind of service." Adelstein said, however, that it's crucial that the Commission address technical issues such as interference.

"I think we need to be mindful of harmful interference, but we can't let unsupported claims stand in the way of this kind of innovation,"

CONTINUED BPL FROM PAGE 3

Adelstein said. "We need to do everything we can to move this forward." Adelstein was not specific in his reference to "unsupported claims."

Chairman Michael Powell called BPL "tremendously exciting." While conceding that BPL has "a long way to go," the chairman said it also could be "the great broadband hope for a good part of rural America." Powell also said the FCC's OET has worked very hard to try to "get their hands around" the issue of interference and that the FCC would continue its vigilance in that area.

The FCC is expected to issue the complete Notice of Proposed Rule Making within a few days and will invite comments on it sometime

FCC IN-THE-HOUSE

March 8th 2004 Metro Justice event

Time 7:00 pm

"Tell Us the Truth--- Who Controls What We Hear, Watch, and Read?" A Town Meeting on the FCC

Location St. John Fisher College's Kearney Auditorium Pittsford, NY

Speaker Federal Communications Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein

Topic / Issue Media

Sponsor Louise Slaughter

Please set aside the evening of March 8th for a community event of enormous importance.

Federal Communications Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein has accepted my invitation to lead a town meeting that evening entitled "Tell Us the Truth — Who Controls What We Hear, Watch, and Read?"

Community groups across the political spectrum have raised their collective voices about the growing consolidation of our national media, while they deplore the loss of localism and diversity in our print and broadcast media. Musicians who can't get their work played in their hometowns, advocates denied air time to discuss community problems. Politicians who cannot debate their issues. And residents deprived of local newscasts are just a few of the groups who are growingly concerned that media outlets that no longer locally owned and controlled. The great loser in all this, of

course is our democracy. Which depends upon an informed citizenry to make decisions for its future?

All this and more will be discussed on Monday March 8th. From 7 to 9 PM at St. John Fisher College's Kearney Auditorium. A panel of representatives from our local newspapers. Radio and television stations will also participate to listen to your concerns and answer your questions.

I do hope you and your friends. Family members and colleagues will join us for what promises to be an enlightening evening of opinion and debate about one of the most crucial issues facing our nation.

Sincerely,

LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER

Member of Congress

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(Park in Lot F)

Rochester Institute of Technology

1 Lomb Memorial Drive

Rochester, NY 14623

A Newbie's Confessions: Part 1 Aeronautical Mobile

Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY

In my short history as a ham, amateur radio has been an adventure every which way I turn. It must have been an auspicious omen when my very first QSO was with another disabled ham. This irony lingers and makes the air waves magical for me, as I continue to meet people from all walks of life. Amateur radio is not simply a hobby for me. It is becoming a way of life.

Recently, I was sitting at the computer doing work. The radio was set at a low volume. I need the radio traffic in the background to get any work done. But an unusual call came on 146.52 MHz which jolted me from my work.

"CQ CQ CQ, this is KC8YFO aeronautical mobile calling CQ."

I grabbed the microphone, stretching its coiled cord to the limit while I moved the chair closer.

"Air mobile calling CQ, this is W-2-Zed-E-Y, Whiskey Two Zulu Echo Yankee. The name here is Larry, over."

"W-2-Zed-E-Y, this is Kilo Charlie Eight Yankee Foxtrot Oscar, air mobile somewhere

over Lake Ontario at 600 feet. The name here is Andy. What's your QTH?"

"Hello Andy. The QTH is Pittsford, New York."

"I'm flying back to Cleveland from a ski trip in Vermont. Your signal is five-uh three. How much power are you putting out?"

"Twenty-five watts into a ground plane. Back to you Andy."

"Are you near Jamestown? Over."

"Negative Andy. Pittsford is a suburb on the east side of Rochester. And Rochester is 60 miles east of Buffalo. I'm about 10 miles inland from the lake. W-2-Zed-E-Y, over."

"Roger. I must be getting down range very fast because your signal is dropping off. What is my report? Kilo Charlie Eight Yankee Foxtrot Oscar."

"You are about three three now, but I can clearly hear those pistons in the background."

"<Laughs> Yeah, that's a common report [re: engine noise]. But I like to take the rig air mobile and see what QSOs I can get."

Our QSO lasted for 12 brief minutes. Then our signals faded badly because he was too far down range, somewhere southeast of Buffalo. During the last few minutes, Andy mentioned how much he liked Mt. Washington in northern New Hampshire, and we talked about the ferocious wind and outrageous temperature readings at the peak during the winter. Andy reminded me that the highest recorded wind speed in the continental U.S. was atop Mt. Washington. *[Note: I later checked the internet – the highest recorded wind velocity in the entire world was observed during the storm of April 12, 1934. It was clocked at 231 mph at the summit. On January 13, 2004, the anemometer on the summit station broke during a strong gust, possibly obscuring what would have been a new record.]* He mentioned his interest in driving to the summit this spring with ham gear to try DXing. Funny, I had been thinking of the very same thing for the summer with a 6 meter SSB rig. But with a mean wind speed of over 25 mph during July, and gusts that can get much higher, I would have to put some serious thought into the design of a small portable antenna structure that will not blow away like an umbrella in a March rainstorm. Perhaps I should try a long wire on a hefty parafoil kite [hi hi]? The QSO ended with us sharing our similar experiences

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of driving the Kangamangus Highway and of the majestic Loon Mountain.

By now QRN was competing with pounding pistons, let alone the voice transmission. As he signed off, Andy noted that he flies to Vermont often and hoped to contact me again on 146.52. While the experience was not on the grand scale of working ARISS or an EME, for 12 exciting minutes I sat in the co-pilot's seat. Perhaps you folks will do the same with KC8YFO aeronautical mobile during his next flyby.

"Kilo Charlie Eight Yankee Foxtrot Oscar, air mobile, it has been a pleasure meeting you. Thanks for the flyby! 73, Whiskey Two Zulu Echo Yankee, clear."

[Addendum: I received email from Andy. He will give me a heads up prior to his next flyby, as well as the simplex channel he will be working. Usually it will be on 2 meters, but occasionally he is on 70 cm.. When I hear from him, I'll send the information through the grapevine. — 73, LW, W2ZEY]

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RaRa HOTLINE

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RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago, March 1984

Ed Gable K2MP

The March 2nd, 1984, meeting featured ARRL's Atlantic Division Vice-Director, Bud Hipsley, K2KIR, speaking on current ARRL matters as well as tips on antennas and how to get the most out of them. The venue was the 40/8 Club at 933 University Avenue. President Bill Thiel, K2KGE, announced his selection of a nominating committee. Selected were Lenny Gessin, WA2ZNC, Joe Hood, K2YA and Bruce Sanborn, KB2WN.

The *RaRa Rag* got a new Associate Editor with the appointment of Don Taylor, KB2BU. Don's position included coordinating the collection of articles, meeting publishing deadlines and working to develop new contributors. Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, reported that 14 public service events have been scheduled already for 1984. Those included such events as the STPR road rally, Scotch Bonnet Yacht Race, Camp Good Days, Walnut Hill Driving Competition, Ginna Evacuation Drill and many others.

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association and the Rochester VHF Group announced their combined Ham Auction to be held on March 16th. Ed Gable, K2MP and Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ, were auctioneers.

Writing as the Club Historian was Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, who told the story of post-war call sign changes. Some may remember that pre-war, New York was the 8th district and post-war we became the second district. As such W8 DOD became W2DOD, etc. Bruce also told of producing the *RaRa Rag* on a mimeograph machine in the basement of Hank Blodget, W2UTH.

The 1984 February Valentine Dinner Party was history with a grand time had by all those attending. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the magic act and some (to this day — Ed) were forever puzzled by the illusions and slight of hand. Morgan Booth, KA2IES, was reported as a silent key. At this time paid membership stood at 765. From the Want Ads you could buy a TR-7400A 2 meter FM radio from Dwight Hill, K2KWK, for \$230.00. Commercial Communications of Lancaster, NY remained a long time advertiser.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL REPEATERS

AMATEUR RADIO LUNCHEON

Ray Pickens WA2MYG

To all who can arrange their schedule? You are welcome to attend the last Friday of the Month (Unless it falls on a holiday) luncheon at the Ridge Rd. West Old Country Buffet located In Stone-Ridge Plaza 12:00 noon + or -. After last months RAG article the attendance jumped two Fold so I was told and that is a good thing, due to another commitment yours truly was unable to Attend but I will be there this month, I hope to see more new and or old faces in attendance.

The next Luncheon will be on March 26, 2004.

CONTINUED FROM SKYWARN PAGE 1

You can get further details about the program on the Internet at
<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/buf/spt.htm>

National Weather Service WFO Buffalo. She will be doing a full session of SKYWARN Spotter Training. Anyone can become a SKYWARN spotter for the National Weather Service. Attendance at this Spotter Training Session will earn you the endorsement of the NWS as a spotter.

The basic training session provides a brief overview to the National Weather Service (the organization and our responsibilities), the equipment we use (including capabilities and limitations), and basic severe weather meteorology (including how thunderstorms, severe thunderstorms and tornadoes form). Training sessions last about two hours and there is no charge for the training. Your training is required to be renewed every three years to remain current.

Judy is a Senior Forecaster for the National Weather Service in Buffalo, NY. There are only five Senior Forecasters at the NWS in Buffalo. Her duties in this position require her to function as a shift supervisor and to make sure that Weather Service products such as forecasts and warnings are issued in a timely fashion. The senior forecaster assigns duties, logs equipment outages, and keeps a log of events. Most importantly to us, however, Judy is a licensed amateur radio operator.



pN2TEZ was first licensed as a Technician Class operator in December of 1992 and has since worked her way up to Extra Class.

My hope for this year is to find as many ways for folks to get involved in local amateur activities as I can and learn a little along the way. Slots for the rest of the season are filled at this time; however if you have a program idea, please contact me regarding it anyway. I am keeping a list of ideas to help our next VP. I also read that Ed Gable is looking for photos and other historical material regarding the Club for Old Timer's Night in May. Please take a minute to see what you might have to contribute, as I have every reason to believe it will be well cared for and put to good use! Lastly, don't forget to set aside Saturday, June 19th to attend the annual RaRa picnic in Ellison Park. See you at the meeting!

What is SKYWARN?

SKYWARN is a national effort to save lives during severe weather emergencies with an expanding network of trained weather spotters. The services performed by SKYWARN spotters have saved many lives.

The National Weather Service has a number of devices for detecting severe thunderstorms. Included in these is Doppler radar, satellite, and lightning detection networks. However, the most important tool for observing thunderstorms is the trained eye of the storm spotter.

By providing observations, SKYWARN spotters assist National Weather Service members in their warning decisions and enable the National Weather Service to fulfill its mission of protecting life and property.

Storm spotters are, and always will be, an indispensable part of the severe local warning program.

FOR SALE: Serious HF Yagi. Mosley PRO-95, 3 inch boom, 36 feet in Length, 9 elements, five bands 20 - 10 meters, 5 kW rating, 150 mph design.

Current model and in catalog at >\$2000. Disassembled and stored in Greece.

Like new condition. Seller anxious but not unaware of value. Make offer to Ed Gable, K2MP, (585) 392-3088, or k2mp@arrl.net

SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS

Dick Goslee KG2I (ex K2VCZ)

RaRa is pleased to announce that the fourth annual Scholarship will be available to a student attending College. The "Rochester Amateur Radio Association Memorial Scholarship" has been established with generous donations made in memory of A. Leland Zwack, W2WPF, William Buchan, W2OMV and William Resch, K4VOS. The scholarship is available to any licensed Amateur Radio operator who is or will be pursuing any degree of Associate level or higher in any accredited school beyond high school. The individual must be a member of RaRa and a resident of New York State. The scholarship is for one individual for one year, but the recipient may reapply for subsequent years. John McIntyre, KC2JSJ was the 2003 winner of the second Memorial Scholarship which was presented at the Hamfest Banquet last June.

Applications are due no later than April 15th. The RaRa Board of Directors and Scholarship Committee will make a final decision by May 15th of each year. The actual award will be presented at the annual RaRa Hamfest Banquet held shortly thereafter.

Applications for the scholarship may be obtained at RaRa general meetings, by mail at P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333 or by calling the RaRa Hotline Phone at 442-0587. Additional information and a copy of the application is available on the Rochester Amateur Radio Association web site at <http://www.rochesterham.org/>, or from one of the officers.

Additional "tax exempt donations" in memory W2WPF, W2OMV, K4VOS or any other silent key may be sent to: Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc., Memorial Scholarship, P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333.

FOR SALE: T-50H Alumna heavy duty Tower. 50 feet tall, rated for 100 Mile winds and tilts to work on the antenna. Retail for \$2,500. Asking \$2,250. Detailed technical specs at <http://www.alumatower.com>. Also, Yaesu G-1000SDX heavy duty antenna rotor. Retail for \$469 + S&H. Asking \$400. Buy both for \$2,600!!! . Call (585) 746-5118".

Public Service

Keith Freeberg N2BEL

We have information on two fun public service events so far. Both of these event are productions of the American Diabetes Association whose event manual states; "All event communication shall be via amateur radio if available."

The first – Tour De Cure, on June 13, 2004, has a new route for this its twelfth year. The new routes will start at Mendon Ponds Park and go south with the hundred milers finding their way into the Mount Morris end of Letchworth State Park before turning on their way to the finish line back at Mendon Ponds.

Updated guidelines for bicycle rider safety require rest stops every 8 to 10 miles with a HAM operator. Additionally, we will be attempting to use APRS to track participants. We will need lots of HAM volunteers for routes and rest stops for either a half or full day loaded with fun, good food and great people to work with.

On the fun side, besides amateur radio, the volunteer teams working the rest stops will be creating a fun theme for their stop. So, be ready to laugh out loud, smile and generally have a good time participating as you see the smiles on the faces of the projected one thousand riders.

Second and a little farther down the planning calendar, America's Walk for Diabetes held on October 2, 2004. This event is tentatively scheduled for Seneca Park again this year. This makes it an idea half-day event, full of energy and ideally suited for hand-held radios with creative antennas from your imagination to boost your communications range.

If you have one of those TV twin lead J-Pole antennas from those Internet plans or QST, this will be a time to use it. The power from a hand-held is enough but the terrain is a little challenging for just the standard "Rubber Ducky" that comes with most of them.

Now, I am certain with all those creative minds out there we will have some interesting solutions. Perhaps, if you volunteer to work this one, you may find a 'hat mounted Yagi', 'a Texas Back Scratcher' or even a rare 'dirigible delight' as solutions to passing a full quieting signal from one end of the park to the other. Will you have the best signal?

Sign up now. Don't miss out on the fun because the bus is already full! Call or email Keith Freeberg today to sign up or get more details. Call (585) 254-0722 or n2bel@frontiernet.net.

Explorer Post 621

Keith Freeberg, N2BEL

A big 'Thank You' to all the volunteers who gave of their time and knowledge to make the Electronics and Telecommunications Post, a joint venture with Kodak, a success again this year. With 20 eager minds wanting to know everything right away we had our work cut out for us but each student settled in and listened intently to each class.

I am going to name names of our volunteers and hope I don't leave anyone out. Truly, it took the great team approach of having four to five 'Coaches' at every meeting to help interpret schematics, and even sometimes find 'Waldo' in our circuit messing it up.

The Explorer Post Coaches; Kevin Carey (WB2QMY), Jon Dickason (N2JAC), Peter Fournia (W2SKY), Dave Hassett (K2SQI), Dave Holman (KE3HF), Bill Hopkins (AA2YV), Bill Kraft (WB2IHM), George Masny (KA2GPJ) and Greg Michels (KC2GXV).

I am proud to say that seven of our twenty initial sign ups will be receiving the equivalent credit of one high school course for successfully completing the Explorer Post Curriculum! I am proud of each of our students and the distance they crossed in their quest for knowledge.

Of course, we will be looking to refine the course one more time. We are looking for a balance of hands-on and lecture to excite the minds of high schoolers. If you want to share your thoughts, volunteer for one night of our next session in fall 2004, or just want more information, call Keith Freeberg (Post Advisor) at (585) 254-0722 or email: n2bel@frontiernet.net.

Monroe County ARES Update

Judy Stonehill N2KXS

Even though there have been no incidents for which we've been activated in the past couple of months, the Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) group has

been busy getting training in the proper methods to use in directed nets and in correct traffic handling procedures. Greg Michels, KC2GXV, gave us two excellent seminars on protocols and formats that should be used when passing traffic in the existing nets.

In the February meeting, which will have been held by the time this issue of the RAG is published, we'll hear about the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) program that exists in Monroe County and the training that's being offered. We'll also be discussing jump-kits (or go-kits) with some show-and-tell by people who have put a kit together.

Judy Levan, N2TEZ, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Buffalo, will give us Skywarn training at the March 18th meeting. In order to participate in Skywarn, we're required to have this training once every three years. Even if you've been to the training session within the last two years, a refresher course is helpful. Judy's talks are always full of humor, lots of information, and great pictures.

Becky McCorry, Director of Emergency Services for the Rochester Chapter of the American Red Cross will talk to the group at our April 15th meeting about the services that are provided by the Red Cross under various emergency conditions; in particular, the communications requirements, and the critical role that hams play.

On May 20th, Seth Irwin will give us an introduction to the Incident Command System (ICS) that is used in nearly every community, including Monroe County, during emergencies. The ICS provides structure and procedures that are necessary for the smooth functioning of many diverse groups during an emergency.

We invite all interested amateur radio operators to join us for interesting, fun, and challenging meetings. The meetings start at 7:00 PM on the third Thursday of each month at RIT, in the Xerox Auditorium which is on the first floor of Building 09, Gleason Engineering.



AMATUER RADIO LUNCHEON

Ray Pickens WA2MYG

To all who can arrange their schedule? You are welcome to attend the last Friday of the Month (Unless it falls on a holiday) luncheon at the Ridge Rd. West Old Country Buffet located in Stone-Ridge Plaza 12:00 noon + or -. After last months RAG article the attendance jumped two fold so I was told and that is a good thing, due to another commitment yours truly was unable to attend but I will be there this month, I hope to see more new and or old faces in attendance.

The next Luncheon will be on February 27, 2004.

RaRa License Class

Ray Pickens WA2MYG

We started last semester (September 8th - November 24th) with 20 combined course students. Within the first three weeks 3 more students joined the Class, by the 9th week there were 4 dropouts putting us back to 19 students. But on the bright side we had 7 upgrades, 3 Technicians/Code, and 3 new Technicians

The new License Class started February 16, 2004 with 7 students in the Technician/CW class, 3 students in the General Theory class, and 5 in the Extra Theory Class (6 counting the instructor WB2UAQ who is presently an Advanced Class license holder and plans to take the Extra Class exam and upgrade along with his class) the class will run running thru May 3, 2004 with all classes of Amateur Licenses offered. with class License Examinations to be taken at the scheduled RaRa VE session 08:30 May 15, 2004, building 76 room 1155. It is my hope that this semester will at the very least equal of not surpass the number of upgrades and new licensees .

FOR SALE: Icom 2m handheld radios and accessories: 2-p2at, 1-bp112, 1-bp114, 3-bp110, 1-cp12, 1-hm46, 1-hm46l, 2-bc74a, 1-hm9, 1-bc80 (desk charger) 2-leather carrying cases, original boxes and schematics.

A westcom rs-7a 7a regulated power supply and an RF Concepts rfc2-23 (2 watts in and 30 watts out) Preamplifier. Asking \$450.00. Mark, N2APD 585-381-0437

Change Meeting Time?

Several people have suggested to your RaRa BOD that start time of our Monthly meeting should be adjusted. They suggest that the start time be Moved forward by 1/2 or one hour. Meetings currently start at 8:00 PM.

The board is considering making a change. However they overwhelmingly thought that this decision should be made by the general membership. The BOD decided to put the question to a vote of the members during our annual meeting on May 7, the change if any would commence with General meeting in September 2004

The general meetings have been going very well for the past few years thanks in part to our format and to the very interesting array of topics and presenters. The business part of the meeting is often 1/2 hour and never over 45 minutes. Attendance is now consistently above 70 people.

Our door prizes are plentiful and a good value thanks to Greg Michels, KC2GXV. Refreshment chairman Tom Austin, KA2GXX provides a good selection of coffees, teas, coco and donuts. This format has yielded very enjoyable and informative general meetings.

However, the meetings tend to run late. Often discussion and questions have to be cut off at 10:00 PM. Often the last people leave at 11:00 PM. Moving the meeting forward to 7:30 would give us the options of concluding the presentation earlier and enable time for informal dialog and socializing, perhaps with refreshments.

What do you think? Please discuss the idea with you friends and prepare to vote your choice at the May 7 RaRa annual meeting.

FOR SALE: Brother, Model HL-1440 Laser Printer, brand new. 1200 x 600 dpi; 24 fonts; prints any custom Size from 2 3/4" x 5" to 9" x 16". Feeder holds up to 250 sheets. Includes unused Toner Cartridge in sealed Carton and drivers \$145.00 or B/O for everything. Irv Goodman, AF2K, 671-4430.

THINK HAM RADIO

HOW AMATEUR RADIO BECAME KNOWN AS HAM RADIO...

Thanks to Gord, VE7TGR

Subject : * WHY WE ARE CALLED HAMS *

Have you ever wondered why we radio amateurs are called HAMS? Well it goes something like this - the word ham was applied in 1908 and was the call letters of one of the first amateur wireless stations operated by some of the members of the Harvard Radio Club. They were Albert Hymen, Bob Almy and Peggie Murray. At first they called their station Hyman-Almy-Murray. Tapping out such a long name in code soon called for a revision, and they changed it to Hy-Al-Mu, using the first two letters of each name. Early 1909 some confusion resulted between signals from HYALMU and a Mexican ship named Myalmo, so they decided to use only the first letter of each name and identified their station as HAM. In the early pioneer and unregulated days of radio, amateur operators picked their own frequencies and call letters.

Then as now, some amateurs had better signals as some commercial stations. The resulting interference finally came to the attention of congressional committees in Washington, DC and they gave much thought to proposed legislation designed to critically limit amateur activity. In 1911, Albert Hyman chose the controversial Wireless Regulations Bill as the topic of his thesis at Harvard. His instructor insisted that a copy be sent to Senator David Walsh, a member of the committee hearing the Bill. The Senator was so impressed that he sent for Mr. Hyman to appear before the committee. Hyman was put on the stand and described how the little amateur station, HAM, was built, and he almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that if the bill went through, they would have to close up the station because they could not afford the license fees and other requirements which were set up in the bill. The debate started and the little station HAM became a symbol of all the little amateur stations in the country that were crying out to be saved from the menace and greed of the big commercial stations who did not want them around. Finally the Bill got to the floor of Congress and every speaker talked about the poor little station, HAM.

GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT HAM RADIO (Educating the Public)

Keith Freeberg N2BEL

Have you ever thought about the impression the general populace has of Ham Radio? When I tell people I'm a Ham I often here in response, "Oh, you do that CB lingo stuff." It usually takes a lot of explaining, sometimes more than their patience can stand, to show a plausible difference. It seems people talking on radios or communicating in special modes is something the general public just doesn't understand, and just doesn't get the positive attention of the community.

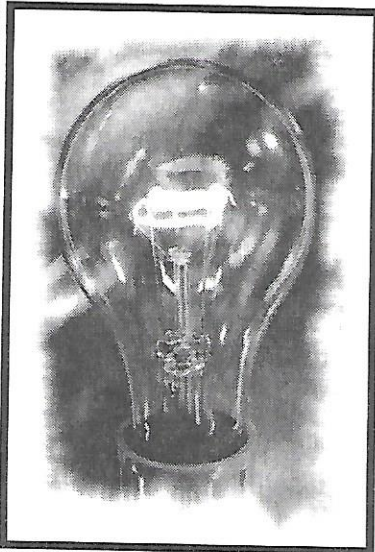
I'm sure you have run into even more shows of indifference from people you've talked with or perhaps even less than approving glances from acquaintances that know little more about radio than clicking the power switch. Perhaps they believe that beyond entertainment value, there is little reason to have it. Perhaps they even equate you, due to their lack of understanding, with some of those distasteful talk show hosts?

How then can we change these perceptions? Untrue perceptions of distasteful talk show hosts or perhaps Hams secluded nerds? One suggestion is to get involved in organized forms of public education. And, there are lots of opportunities through Rochester Area Radio Educators (RARE). There are some dozen or so programs active in the Greater Rochester Area and it is easy to get involved.

All are welcome to get involved for an hour or two each year in one of the many existing or new educational programs. You can find out just how two hours a year can help bring understanding of our avocation and its value to the community. It is easy to get involved, it's flexible, and it honors our commitments to family and our hobby.

To find out more, call Keith at 585-254-0722
Or email n2bel@frontiernet.net

Disabled ham needs assistance putting mounting brackets and antenna on side of house (whenever weather permits). A 20-foot ladder will be required. Lunch is on me! Contact Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY, at 389-1926 or contax2@rochester.rr.com. 73.



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